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RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

[From November 11, 1897 to May 10, 1898.]

I. THE UNITED STATES.

THE INTERVENTION IN CUBA. — President McKinley's policy in reference to the Cuban situation was publicly announced for the first time in his annual message, December 6. It was declared therein that through Minister Woodford Spain had been asked to take steps to terminate the existing conditions and effect that restoration of order in Cuba for which the United States could not wait indefinitely. In response to this demand the Sagasta government had announced its purpose to institute at once an autonomous *régime* for Cuba and so to modify the conduct of hostilities as to ameliorate the existing conditions ; and had further urged upon the United States the necessity of enforcing its neutral obligations, in which case the complete pacification of the island would soon be effected. Mr. McKinley brushed aside the imputation that the United States had failed in its duty ; but, after an examination of all phases of the situation, concluded that the time had not yet come for recognition of the insurgents either as belligerents or as independent, or for intervention to end the war. "It is honestly due to Spain," he said, "... that she should be given a reasonable chance . . . to prove the asserted efficacy of the new order of things. But if it shall hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity, to intervene with force, it shall be without fault on our part, and only because the necessity for such action will be so clear as to command the support and approval of the civilized world." For two months subsequent to the publication of the message, pending the development of the Spanish government's new policy (see below, p. 383), President McKinley's chief activity in connection with Cuba consisted in efforts to ameliorate the condition of the "*reconcentrados*." The reports of Consul-General Lee and the other consular officers revealed a horrible prevalence of disease and starvation among these people, who, shut up in the towns by the decrees of General Weyler, had no means of procuring subsistence. Neither private nor governmental charity in Cuba itself was at all adequate to deal with the situation. On December 24 Secretary of State Sherman issued, in the name of the President, an appeal to the public for contributions for the sufferers, announcing that the Spanish authorities had agreed to admit free of duty all articles for that purpose. This appeal was followed on January 8 by another, which announced the appointment of a "Central Cuban Relief Committee," with headquarters at New York, through which the accumulation, forwarding and distribution of supplies was thoroughly organized. Up to the end of March, when the

danger of war caused a suspension of operations, over 2000 tons of supplies had been shipped and more than \$110,000 in cash had been raised.— Early in February occurred the first of the series of events which precipitated a crisis in our relations with Spain. On the 8th of that month the Junta, representing the Cuban insurgents in New York, published a private letter from the Spanish minister at Washington, Señor Dupuy de Lome, to Señor Canalejas, a Spanish newspaper editor. The letter had been stolen from the mail by a Cuban sympathizer. It referred to President McKinley as a weak man “catering to the rabble,” and as a mere “politicaster,” seeking to stand well both with the writer and with the “jingoës of his party.” Acknowledging the authenticity of the letter, Señor de Lome promptly cabled his resignation to Madrid, anticipating the demand for his recall which was made by our government. On the 14th the administration received from the Spanish government a satisfactory disclaimer of any share in the objectionable sentiments, and the incident was declared closed. On the next day, and while American public sentiment was yet in a state of exasperation over the de Lome affair, occurred the **destruction of the *Maine*** in the harbor of Havana. The battleship had been sent to Havana on January 24, in consequence of representations by consular officers that American lives and property were in danger from the anti-autonomy rioters (see below, p. 384). As officially stated, however, the purpose of sending the ship was merely that of resuming friendly naval relations with Spain. At the same time a Spanish cruiser had been ordered to visit New York. At a little before ten o'clock, on the evening of February 15, an explosion at the forward part of the *Maine* sunk the vessel and caused the death of 266 of the crew. The Spanish officials at Havana did everything possible to rescue and relieve the survivors of the disaster and bestowed impressive funeral honors upon the dead. A board of inquiry was at once constituted by our government to investigate the cause of the explosion, and a parallel investigation was instituted by Spain, after a proposition for a joint commission had been declined by the United States. In response to the earnest demand of the administration public opinion as to the cause of the explosion was very generally suspended during the proceedings of the board of inquiry, which were carefully kept secret. Evidence was abundant, however, that popular thought was keenly sensitive to the situation. Contributions to the Cuban relief committee enormously increased. An intimation by Spain early in March that she would be pleased with the recall of Consul-General Lee from Havana gave rise to numerous manifestations of popular hostility throughout the country. At the instance of our administration Spain withdrew her objections to Lee. On March 17 a very profound impression was produced on public opinion by an address by Mr. Proctor, of Vermont, in the Senate, stating the result of his personal observations during a recent visit to Cuba. In a dispassionate manner he described the desolation of the island, the misery of the *reconcentrados* and the inefficacy of the Spanish campaign, and

revealed a strong conviction that independence embodied the only solution of all the problems. Other senators testified to the same effect, though, on account of the circumstances under which their observations had been made and the manner in which their conclusions were stated, their opinions had less influence than those of Senator Proctor. The warlike trend of public sentiment received decisive confirmation when, on March 28, the report of the *Maine* court of inquiry was made public. The finding of the court was that the ship was destroyed by the explosion of a submarine mine, which caused the partial explosion of her magazines ; but that no evidence had been obtainable fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the vessel. This report was transmitted to Congress with a message from the President, in which he merely described the affair, summarized the court's conclusions and stated that he had communicated the report to the Spanish government. On the same day the administration was notified of the conclusion of the Spanish investigating commission, to the effect that the explosion was due, not to a mine or torpedo, but to some interior cause. — Meanwhile the negotiations which had been in progress throughout the winter had reached the point of a **diplomatic impasse**. On March 27 President McKinley, having concluded that the time had come for an immediate termination of the war in Cuba, proposed to Spain (1) an armistice till October 1, "for the negotiation of peace with the good offices of the President"; (2) the entire revocation of the concentration decrees and the restoration of all the *reconcentrados* to their homes ; and (3) the relief of the needy by provisions and supplies from the United States, distributed in coöperation with the Spanish authorities. To these demands Spain replied on the 31st, offering to confide the preparation of peace to the Cuban Parliament, which was to meet on May 4 ; agreeing to accept a suspension of hostilities if asked for by the insurgents ; announcing that the concentration orders had been revoked, the relief of the needy by the United States agreed to, and \$600,000 appropriated to aid in this work ; and offering to submit to arbitration the question of fact as to the cause of the *Maine* disaster. The President let it be officially announced, April 1, that the Spanish reply was unsatisfactory, and that he would refer the matter to Congress as soon as a message could be prepared. The message was in fact not sent in till the 11th, the delay being due in part to the request of Consul-General Lee that opportunity be given for the departure of all the American citizens and consuls from Cuba. Pending the appearance of the message, amid general excitement and expectation of war, especially significant events were as follows : (1) An appeal to the President by the ministry of the autonomous Cuban government, protesting that home rule was an accomplished fact in Cuba, that the autonomist government represented a majority of the free Cuban people, and that interference by the United States would be unjust and oppressive. (2) A public declaration by a representative of the insurgent Junta in New York that intervention by the United States without previous recognition of the Cuban Republic would be

regarded by the insurgents as hostile to themselves, and that any attempt to extend a protectorate over Cuba would be resisted by the insurgents by force of arms. (3) The presentation of a joint note by the representatives at Washington of the six great powers of Europe, expressive of the hope that further negotiations might secure peace, with the necessary guaranties of order in Cuba. (4) The proclamation by Spain, April 10, of a general and unconditional armistice in Cuba, the act being officially ascribed to the influence of the Pope. On the 9th the last of the Americans, headed by Consul-General Lee, sailed from Havana for Key West, and on Monday, the 11th, the President's message, together with copious extracts from the consular reports on Cuba, was laid before Congress. It reviewed the civil and military situation in Cuba since the outbreak of insurrection; announced the diplomatic *impasse* described above; argued that neither recognition of belligerency to the insurgents nor of independence to "the so-called Cuban Republic" was expedient under existing circumstances; and concluded that intervention as an impartial neutral was the only feasible and just way remaining to bring an end to the war. Such intervention, the President declared, was justifiable on general grounds of humanity, for the special protection of our own citizens in Cuba, for relief to our suffering trade and industry, and especially because "the present condition of affairs in Cuba is a constant menace to our peace and entails upon this government an enormous expense." The *Maine* affair was cited to illustrate the intolerable situation. In conclusion the President declared that "in the name of humanity, in the name of civilization, in behalf of endangered American interests, the war in Cuba must stop." Accordingly he asked Congress to authorize and empower him to terminate the war, to secure a "stable government" in Cuba, "capable of maintaining order and observing its international obligations," and to employ the army and navy for these purposes. In a postscript he called attention to the armistice just proclaimed by Spain and asked that it have due consideration. — There was no doubt as to what would be the nature of the **action of Congress**. Throughout the session the desire for intervention had been very conspicuous in all parties, especially after the *Maine* affair. When early in March the administration asked for money to prepare for the national defense, an appropriation of \$50,000,000 had been voted unanimously by both houses. Upon the reception of the President's message just described resolutions were promptly passed, of which the Senate form differed from that of the House chiefly (1) in "directing" instead of merely "empowering" the President to intervene, and (2) in recognizing the existing Cuban Republic. A conference committee's report was finally adopted in the early morning of April 19, by 42 to 35 in the Senate, and 171 to 121 in the House. The final form of the resolutions declared that "the people" of Cuba "are and of right ought to be free and independent"; demanded that Spain "at once relinquish its authority and government" in Cuba; "directed and empowered" the President to use the army and navy and the militia to enforce the resolutions;

and disclaimed for the United States any intention to "exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island except for the pacification thereof." On the 20th the President approved the joint resolution and sent an ultimatum to Spain.

THE WAR WITH SPAIN. — Upon the publication of the President's message of April 11 the Spanish government had announced that it would resist the policy indicated therein, as incompatible with the sovereignty of Spain. Accordingly **the rupture** became inevitable. When on the 20th the ultimatum, demanding compliance with the resolution of Congress by the 23d, was presented to the Spanish minister at Washington, he at once asked for his passports and took train for Canada. On the following day Minister Woodford, at Madrid, before he had time to present the ultimatum, was notified by the Spanish government that the approval by the President of the resolution of Congress was equivalent to a declaration of war, and that diplomatic relations between the two countries had ceased. Mr. Woodford withdrew to France on the same day. Hostilities at once began, but in order to define the situation with precision a formal declaration that war had existed since the 21st was passed by Congress, without division, on the 25th. — The American **attitude toward privateering and neutrals** was defined in a note addressed to the foreign powers on the 22d, in which it was declared to be the policy of the United States to abstain from privateering, to exempt from confiscation enemies' goods under a neutral flag and neutral goods under an enemy's flag, save contraband of war, and to regard blockades as binding only if effective. Spain's position was defined in a decree of the 24th to substantially the same effect, save that the right to resort to privateers was specifically reserved, though for the present it was declared that only auxiliary cruisers under naval control would be employed. Both nations announced that the right of search for contraband would be exercised in conformity to international law. The customary proclamations of neutrality were issued by the powers, beginning with Great Britain on the 26th. Preparations for **naval hostilities** began in both Spain and the United States early in March. Agents of both governments competed eagerly for the purchase of war ships building for other nations, but the superior financial resources of the United States, especially after the appropriation of \$50,000,000, noted above, determined the matter generally in her favor. Two new Brazilian cruisers were secured by the United States in England, of which, however, only one could be got away before war began. The most successful efforts were those directed to the creation of auxiliary fleets from the mercantile marine. Most of the \$25,000,000 expended by our Navy Department up to the end of April was devoted to this purpose. A systematic inspection was instituted in all our ports of ships available for conversion into cruisers, while fast yachts and ocean-going tugs were sought for conversion into torpedo and dispatch boats. By the beginning of hostilities a very respectable auxiliary fleet had been duly equipped and manned, the most effective vessels being the four huge

steamers of the American transatlantic passenger line. By means of the cruisers, together with the so-called "mosquito fleet" of yachts and tugs, an extensive system of coast patrol was organized. By the outbreak of hostilities the ships of the regular navy had been concentrated for the most part in three squadrons, stationed respectively at Key West, Hampton Roads and Hong Kong. On April 22 President McKinley proclaimed a blockade of the north coast of Cuba from Cardenas to Bahia Honda (including Havana and Matanzas) and of the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast; and the Key West squadron, under Admiral Sampson, moved across and established the blockade. A number of Spanish merchantmen were taken, demonstrations were made at several points on the coast, and communication was established with the insurgents. Spain meanwhile had gathered a squadron at the Cape Verde Islands and another at Manila in the Philippines, in addition to the vessels at Cadiz and other home ports. The first engagement took place at Manila, May 1. Commodore Dewey, with the American squadron from Hong Kong, ran by the forts at the entrance to Manila Bay, attacked and totally destroyed the Spanish squadron, forced the land defenses at Cavite to surrender, and held Manila in his power under threat of bombardment. The Spanish lost over 600 men in the battle; the Americans had only a half-dozen men slightly wounded. Meanwhile the Spanish squadron at Cape Verde had left for the West Indies; while on May 4 Admiral Sampson, with a strong detachment of the blockading fleet at Cuba, sailed eastward, and at the close of this RECORD was approaching Porto Rico. — **The military preparations** on both sides consisted at first mainly in the strengthening of fortifications and the installation of systems of mines, in the important harbors. On April 16 the regular army of the United States was put in motion from the posts in all parts of the land to concentrate at Chickamauga, Tampa, New Orleans and Mobile. On the 23d the President called for 125,000 two-year volunteers, apportioned among the states, and the recruiting and organization of this force at once began. Four days later, upon the passage of the act increasing the regular army (see below, p. 373) the necessary orders were given for recruiting under its provisions. By the close of this RECORD the volunteer forces had assembled in the respective states, and steps had been taken to concentrate a large part of them at Chickamauga, Washington and San Francisco. On May 4 the President appointed eleven major-generals of volunteers, seven by promotion of brigadiers of the regular army, and four from civil life, namely, Fitzhugh Lee and Congressman Wheeler, formerly of the Confederate cavalry, J. H. Wilson, of the Federal cavalry in the Civil War, and Senator Sewell, of New Jersey, also a conspicuous Union officer in the Civil War.

PEACEFUL FOREIGN RELATIONS. — **The matter of the seal fisheries** advanced in the early part of the period under review to an apparently hopeless *impasse*, so far as our relations with Great Britain were concerned. The conference between the United States, Japan and Russia,

which ended November 6 (see last RECORD), resulted in an agreement to put a stop to pelagic sealing. Four days later the representatives of Great Britain, Canada and the United States met. But here only the scientific experts took direct part in the proceedings, and the result of their deliberations, reached on the 16th, was merely an agreement on the facts as to the past and present of the Pribylov Island seal herd. Essential points in their conclusions were as follows: The herd has decreased since 1884 to one-third or one-fifth its former size; both land and pelagic killing are conducted in accordance with law; the latter industry, because it involves the taking of females, is more destructive to the herd than the former; pelagic sealing has of late fallen off in greater ratio than has the herd; the herd is not in present danger of actual extermination; and both land and pelagic killing yield, under existing conditions, inconsiderable profits. The United States sought to secure action looking to the prohibition of pelagic sealing; but Canada, through Sir Wilfred Laurier, who came in person to Washington, declined to consider this proposition save on condition that commercial reciprocity and other mooted questions were combined in the negotiations. This the United States declined, and in December applied to the British government direct with a proposition to suspend pelagic sealing. In January Lord Salisbury definitively refused to reopen the question. The joint commission for the settlement of claims for damages by Canadian sealers seized by the United States prior to the arbitration of 1893 (see RECORD for December, 1896, p. 765) reported in December an award of \$281,181, with interest at seven per cent, making a total of about \$470,000. — The treaty for the annexation of **Hawaii** was brought before the Senate and discussed in a desultory way during the winter. Doubt as to the possibility of ratification was general from the outset. In January President Dole, of the Hawaiian Republic, visited Washington, but his stay was short. By the middle of March the advocates of the treaty definitely abandoned the hope of securing the necessary two-thirds majority for ratification, and accordingly, on the 16th, the committee on foreign relations reported a joint resolution annexing the islands. The provisions of the resolution were identical with those of the treaty, and a bare majority of the Senate was in favor of annexation. In the presence of the tension with Spain, however, no effort was made to bring the Hawaiian matter forward for action.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION. — **Changes in the cabinet** have taken place as follows: In December Attorney-General McKenna was appointed associate judge of the Supreme Court, and his place in the cabinet was filled in the following month by Gov. J. W. Griggs, of New Jersey. Immediately after the outbreak of the war with Spain Mr. Sherman, whose increasing infirmity had precluded more than a nominal exercise of the duties of Secretary of State, resigned, and was succeeded by the first assistant secretary, William R. Day, of Ohio, by whom the actual work of the department had been conducted. Mr. Day was succeeded as first

assistant secretary by Prof. J. B. Moore, of Columbia University, New York. Just before this Postmaster-General Gary resigned on account of ill-health and was succeeded by C. E. Smith, of Pennsylvania. — **The revenue** from the Dingley tariff manifested a tendency to increase during the winter, so that for the month of February the treasury was able to show a slight actual excess of receipts over expenditures. By that time, however, the deficit for the fiscal year had reached a total of about \$53,000,000. The sum realized from the sale of the Union Pacific Railway (see last RECORD), being classed with the ordinary receipts, produced an apparent balance in the treasury's statements, though this sum must be devoted to the retirement of the Union Pacific bonds. With the approach of war the receipts declined so as to render new legislation imperative. — As to **the currency**, the conditions described in the last RECORD continued to operate to the advantage of the treasury and of the gold standard. Through heavy and long-continued importations of gold the treasury gold reserve rose by April to \$175,000,000. In a number of ways the administration sought to promote the cause of currency reform ; but the development of the tension with Spain during February served to crowd the subject into the background. — The government's interest in **the Kansas Pacific Railway** was extinguished through sale of the property under foreclosure, February 16–18. The road was bid in by a reorganization committee of financiers, under an agreement with the administration by which the treasury was assured \$6,303,000, the principal of the subsidy bonds issued by the United States and secured by second mortgage. The interest which had been paid by the government, amounting to \$6,624,000, had to be sacrificed. — On December 17 the Dawes Commission concluded a treaty with the Seminole nation for the extinction of their tribal existence, under conditions similar to those already agreed to by the Choctaws and Chickasaws (see RECORD for June, 1897). — In connection with the discontent in Congress with the recent development of **civil service reform**, a Senate committee reported March 9, after investigation, that the classification had been too extensive, and that certain places included in the classified service should be removed therefrom ; but the committee conceded that its function was purely advisory, and that the President's power to act or not in the matter was complete. In December Secretary Gage put in operation in the Treasury Department an order reducing to \$900 per annum the salaries of all clerks seventy years of age or over. The purpose and effect of the order was to establish a civil pension list, since it was announced that an "honorable service roll" would be created, and that all aged clerks placed thereon might expect a diminution of their work.

CONGRESS. — The second session of the Fifty-fifth Congress opened December 6. In President McKinley's **Annual Message** the position of first importance was given to the currency problem, a solution of which, on the lines of the plan formulated by Secretary Gage, was urgently recommended. As to foreign policy, besides the discussion of the Cuban ques-

tion, noticed above, the message commented upon the importance of Hawaiian annexation, described the negotiations that had been carried on looking to international bimetallism, and stated that negotiations for reciprocity under the Dingley Tariff Act were in progress. As to questions of internal policy, the President dwelt on the importance of increasing the docking facilities on each of our coasts to a point that should be commensurate with the needs of our increased navy, and recommended an additional battleship for the Pacific and a number of additional torpedo boats; described the conditions prevailing in the Indian Territory, and intimated that, if the negotiations by the Dawes Commission should fail, drastic action by Congress would be necessary in order to terminate the evils of the tribal *régime*; and, in connection with the approaching sale of the Kansas Pacific Railway, submitted to Congress the question whether it was desirable for the government, in order to protect itself from the loss of three-fifths of its claim against the road, to become a bidder and therefore the owner of the property. — Beyond the routine work on the appropriation bills little important legislation was considered by the Houses prior to the development of the Cuban crisis. On December 29 the President approved an act prohibiting American citizens from pelagic sealing in the North Pacific, and forbidding the importation of fur-seal skins taken in those waters. This act was in accordance with the treaty agreement with Russia and Japan, and with the policy pursued in the long negotiations with Great Britain. The currency question was brought before the Senate in January by the silver men, apparently for the purpose of manifesting their hostility to the President's projects. A concurrent resolution was introduced, identical with one adopted by Congress twenty years before, affirming that the bonds of the United States are payable, principal and interest, at the option of the government in standard silver dollars, and that payment in such coins would not violate the public faith or the rights of public creditors. This resolution passed the Senate, January 28, by 47 to 32 — Democrats, Populists, and twelve silver Republicans in the affirmative, one Democrat and thirty-one Republicans in the negative. Three days later the House took up the resolution and promptly rejected it by 182 to 132. Restriction of immigration also was acted upon in the Senate. A bill, similar to the one vetoed by Mr. Cleveland (see RECORD for June, 1897), was passed by that body, January 17, excluding aliens over sixteen who are not able to read or write the English or some other language. No action had been taken by the House up to the close of this RECORD. — In connection with the Cuban crisis **war legislation** included the following acts: Increasing the army by two regiments of artillery, March 7; authorizing the President to prohibit the export of coal or other war material by sea, April 21; creating a volunteer army for times of actual or imminent war and providing for its organization, April 22; reorganizing the regular army so as to introduce the three-battalion system and to increase the army on war footing from 27,000 to 61,000 men, April 26; author-

izing army officers in Cuba to furnish subsistence to destitute Cubans, and to supply the insurgents with arms and ammunition, May 10. All the foregoing bills were passed by practically unanimous votes in both houses. On the 23d Mr. Dingley introduced the bill to provide a war revenue. It greatly increased the taxes on beer and tobacco, imposed stamp taxes on all kinds of business documents, on telegrams, and on proprietary drugs and similar articles, greatly increased the tax on tonnage, and finally authorized the issue of 10-20 three per cent coin bonds up to \$500,000,000, and of interest-bearing treasury notes up to one million. On this measure party lines were drawn, through the demand of the Democrats that the bond issue should be omitted and an income tax inserted. No obstruction was resorted to, however, in the House, and the measure passed, April 29, by 181 to 131, six Democrats for and two Republicans against it. The finance committee of the Senate, to whom the bill was next referred, at once began to remodel it to conform to the ideas of the silver men. The influence of the war was manifested clearly in the Naval Appropriation Act, which passed its final stages May 2. After successive increases in the number originally proposed, the act eventually provided for three new battleships, four new harbor-defense monitors, twelve torpedo boats and sixteen torpedo-boat destroyers.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.— Among the important decisions of the Supreme Court have been the following: *Holden vs. Hardy*, February 28; held, that the Utah statute forbidding the employment of workingmen for more than eight hours per day in mining, smelting and refining, is within the police power of the state, and does not conflict with the Fourteenth Amendment. *Smyth et al. vs. Ames et al.* (Nebraska Maximum Freight Rate Case), March 7; held, that the question whether railroad rates established by state law are so low as to deprive the carrier of property without compensation, is a matter for judicial inquiry, and that the Nebraska law, having fixed maximum rates under which the business would be carried on at a loss, is in conflict with the Fourteenth Amendment and hence invalid. *United States vs. Wong Kim Ark*, March 28; held, that a child born in the United States, of Chinese parents, domiciled and in permanent business in the country, becomes at birth a citizen of the United States. — Under the Anti-Trust Act of 1890 the circuit court of appeals in Tennessee decided, February 8, that the Addyston Pipe and Steel Co., a combination of iron-pipe manufacturers, was unlawful. The circuit court in California, decided, January 28, that an association of coal dealers fell in the same category.

STATE LEGISLATION.— **Constitutional changes** have been acted upon as follows: In New York the legislature adopted, for submission to the next legislature and to the people, a proposition providing for biennial sessions of the legislature. In Iowa a proposition looking to biennial elections of state officers was passed by the legislature, and in Mississippi one providing for an elective judiciary. The clause of the Wyoming constitu-

tion which declares that no foreign-born citizen shall vote unless able to read the constitution, was interpreted by the state supreme court to mean that the constitution must be read in English. In Rhode Island a commission reported to the legislature a draft of a total revision of the constitution, establishing, among other things, an intelligence qualification (ability to read and write in English) for admittance to citizenship, and substituting biennial for annual elections. In Louisiana an election, January 11, on the question of holding a constitutional convention resulted in favor of the affirmative. The convention accomplished its chief purpose by the adoption, in March, of a suffrage clause, designed to exclude the negroes from the franchise. The leading provisions of the clause are as follows: The right to vote is given to all who can prove their ability to read and write, in either English or their mother tongue, by making written application for registration in the presence of the proper officials, and also to those who, though unable to fulfil the above requirement, own property assessed at not less than \$300; moreover, without either of the foregoing qualifications, persons who could vote prior to January 1, 1867, together with their sons and grandsons above the age of twenty-one, are entitled to vote. Provision is also made for the submission of certain questions to the taxpayers alone, in which case the educational qualification is inoperative, and women also may vote. The new provisions are to go into effect December 31, 1898. — Legislation designed to regulate party primaries and restrain the influence exerted therein by the so-called "bosses" and "machines" has been enacted in Illinois and New York. The act of March 29, in the latter state, subjects enrollments and primary elections to the supervision of the state election officials, under regulations designed to insure the same freedom of action to the individual that is insured in the final registration and voting. The Illinois act, passed February 10, is less radical in the matter of enrollments, but establishes a strong official control over primaries. — In Kentucky the mob violence against tollgates, which has prevailed for several years, continued to manifest itself during the winter. The governor strove earnestly to maintain order by the militia; but the disturbances were very widespread, the public sentiment of the rural districts was either overawed by the rioters or inherently favorable to them, and the legislature, politically hostile to the governor, seemed not averse to hampering his policy. An act was passed, over his veto, putting the expense of troops used against mobs upon the corporations whose property is protected. — The agitation against department stores (see *RECORD* for June, 1897, p. 363) in Western cities has continued in a variety of forms. In Chicago the opponents of the large stores secured the enactment of city ordinances prohibiting the sale of meats and provisions or of wines and liquors in the same establishment in which dry goods were sold. The large concerns, however, found legal means to thwart the purpose of the enactments. More recently the retailers have concerted plans for establishing a coöperative store, for the express purpose of com-

peting with the large concerns by their own methods. — In consequence of the long-standing friction between the state authorities of Kansas and insurance companies of other states, several of the large Eastern companies formally withdrew, at the beginning of the year, from the transaction of business in Kansas. Projects are understood to be on foot in the state for the organization of insurance business under state auspices.

LYNCH LAW. — The incidents under this head that have come to the notice of the compiler are thirty-one in number, exclusive of the Lake City murder, noticed below. Of the thirty-one, twenty-three were in the South, — the victims all being black; and eight were in the Northwest — North Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada and Washington, the victims all being white. Rape was the alleged offense in eight of the cases at the South, but in none at the North. At Lake City, S. C., on February 22, various manifestations of ill-feeling by the whites at the appointment of a negro postmaster for the village culminated in an atrocious crime. Late at night a party of white men surrounded and set fire to the negro's home. As he and his family attempted to escape the flames, the whites opened fire with guns, with the result that the postmaster and his baby were instantly killed, and his wife and three other children were seriously wounded. The national authorities instituted an investigation of the affair, and on March 4 offered a reward for the conviction of the murderers. The state authorities also displayed great activity in proceedings for the detection and punishment of the guilty. The incident was an extreme development of a feeling that has been made apparent in many parts of the South since the advent of the McKinley administration. Federal offices have been given to negroes in a large number of cases, and protests and friction have been general on the part of the whites, but without effect. — Extraordinary precautions by the Southern state officials for the prevention of lynching have been characteristic of the period. In North Carolina and in Texas the respective governors have freely employed the militia to protect negroes under arrest on charges of assault. The governors of Maryland and Virginia strongly recommended to their respective legislatures the enactment of laws imposing heavy pecuniary responsibility upon any county in which a lynching may occur. — In Indiana the governor has carried on a persistent policy of bringing to justice those concerned in the lynching at Versailles last September (see last RECORD). Neighborhood sympathy with the criminals has thus far proved sufficient to shield them, and two successive grand juries have refused to indict any one.

II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. — The most important incidents in this field have been connected with events in the Orient and in Africa, described below. In Europe proper the Cretan question has been the only matter of importance, but practically no advance has been

made toward its settlement. The candidature of Colonel Schaeffer for the governorship of autonomous Crete proved by the middle of November incapable of winning general consent. During the winter Russia proposed and pressed with some show of warmth the name of Prince George of Greece for the position; this project encountered the opposition of Germany, Austria and the Porte. As to the details of the proposed governmental organization for the islands, no agreement whatever has resulted from the discussions by the powers. Meanwhile the maintenance of order has continued to occupy the attention of the naval forces of the powers. Germany and Austria, however, withdrew their forces in March and April respectively, leaving affairs to France, Russia, Great Britain and Italy. — The final treaty of **peace between Greece and Turkey** was signed December 4, and was promptly ratified by the Greek Parliament. In March a loan for the payment of the indemnity was secured for Greece by the mediation and under the guaranty of Great Britain, France and Russia; and on April 2 the final legislation for the establishment of the great powers in control of the Greek financial administration was enacted at Athens. Late in the winter Russia demanded of the Porte that a substantial fraction of the war indemnity received from Greece should be applied to making up the arrears of the indemnity due to Russia for the war of 1877–78. The final settlement of this matter had not been reached at the close of this RECORD.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. — Prior to the assembling of Parliament the general interest of all classes was centered in the progress of the **engineering strike** (see last RECORD). The contest proved most obstinate between the thoroughly well-organized trade unions and the employers' federation. A proposition of the latter looking to settlement was, when submitted to vote of the workmen in December, almost unanimously rejected. But the strain upon the resources of the unions became intolerable; some \$180,000 weekly was paid to the strikers, while the outside contributions, though large, fell far short of such a sum. In January the cause of the men was manifestly hopeless, and another vote resulted in a majority for acceptance of the employers' terms. On the 28th the order went forth for the men to resume work. The result involved the withdrawal of the unions' demand for a 48-hours week, and the acceptance of the rules insisted on by the employers to insure themselves a free hand as to the management of the shops and the *personnel* of their employees. — **Parliament** assembled February 8. The chief legislative measures proposed in the Queen's speech were: Relief for the industries of the West Indian colonies, which were reported to be suffering from severe depression; a new system of local government for Ireland; and an increase in the strength and efficiency of the army. Of these measures the Irish Local Government Bill alone made marked progress before the end of this RECORD. The bill was introduced February 21. Its essential provisions were as follows: In the place of the existing nominated bodies, popularly elected bodies were established to carry on local government — county councils, urban and rural district councils, and boards of guardians. These

bodies were to be chosen by the electors qualified to vote for members of Parliament, with the addition of peers and women ; and eligibility to membership was made practically the same as in England, except that ministers of religion were ineligible. Only the fiscal and administrative duties of the old county organs were transferred to the new ; judicial business was given over to the county courts. As to taxation and finance, the salient provision in the complicated readjustment was that under which the imperial treasury was to contribute to the localities annually a fixed sum, equal to one-half the county rate and one-half the poor rate paid by agricultural land in a standard year. This last provision was stigmatized by Irish members as a bribe to the landlords to secure their consent to the bill. The bill as a whole was accepted in principle by all the Irish factions as well as by the Liberals, and it passed its second reading without a division, March 21. The budget statement of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, presented April 21, declared that the country was increasingly prosperous. The surplus of the past year was £3,678,000, though the total expenditures of the year had been £115,089,000 — the highest point ever reached. For the ensuing year he estimated a surplus of \$1,786,000, which would permit some reductions in taxation, chiefly in the excise on tobacco. — A hotly contested election for the London County Council, March 3, resulted in a triumph for the Progressives, or radical party, who chose 68 members, as against 48 Moderates.

THE BRITISH COLONIES AND INDIA. — The Canadian Parliament met February 3, but its session has not produced striking political legislation. Economic interests of local significance have been the chief topics of consideration. In April the administration announced bills insuring preferential tariff treatment to Great Britain, India, New South Wales and the British West Indies, and providing for a general *plébiscite* on the desirability of prohibitory liquor laws. — In Newfoundland, as the result of an election a week earlier, the Whiteway ministry was succeeded, November 18, by a Conservative cabinet headed by Sir James Winter. The change involved a reversal of the policy of rather extravagant internal improvements that had been carried out by Whiteway. — The movement for **Australian federation** has resulted in the completion of a draft constitution. The convention (see last RECORD) reassembled at Melbourne January 20, Queensland having still failed to overcome the obstacles to sending representatives. On the 17th of March the convention, having finished its work, adjourned *sine die*. The constitution as adopted embodied the following provisions : A federal legislature, bicameral, with members of both houses chosen by popular vote ; representation according to population in the lower, and equal for every state in the upper house ; money bills to originate in the lower house, but alterations may be suggested and the bill as a whole thrown out by the upper ; in case of a deadlock between the houses, a simultaneous dissolution and afterward, if the deadlock continues, a joint session in which a two-thirds majority shall determine the fate of the measure at issue ; a

uniform tariff under federal control, the surplus revenue over necessary expenses to be returned to the states in the proportion that an experience of five years shall show to be just ; all powers not delegated to the federal government to be retained by the states. The draft will next be voted upon by the people of the different states, with the provision that an affirmative vote above a fixed minimum in each state shall be necessary in order to ratify. This minimum was raised last year in New South Wales from 50,000 to 80,000 (out of 400,000 adult males) — an action which is thought to have made ratification problematical. The constitution may, if ratified by three states, go into operation for those ratifying. — In **India** the famine disappeared during the winter, and the uprising of the border tribes was finally suppressed. But the third great source of recent trouble, the plague, after a period of subsidence, became virulent again in January in the region of Bombay, and again the sanitary measures of the government caused rioting and bloodshed. At Sinnar, on January 28, and in Bombay itself, March 9, serious resistance to the authorities was only overcome after many lives had been lost. At the beginning of May it was announced that the plague had made its appearance in Calcutta. As a consequence of the incidents at Poona (see last RECORD) the law in reference to sedition was amended by the legislative council in February in the direction of much greater stringency. All but one of the native members of the council opposed the amendment. The budget statement made to the council in March showed a deficit for 1896-97 of 1,700,000 rupees, and an estimated deficit for 1897-98 of 5,280,000 rupees, due chiefly to the famine.

FRANCE. — French political life, otherwise uneventful, has been throughout the period under review considerably affected by the sensational incidents of **the Dreyfus affair and the Zola trial**. In 1895 Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French army, was convicted by a court-martial of having sold military secrets to a foreign power, and was sentenced to life imprisonment on a West Indian island. Doubt as to the guilt of Dreyfus was felt and expressed by many persons at the time, but on the other hand anti-Semitic influences were energetically employed to turn public opinion against him. The proceedings of the court-martial were secret and hence the evidence against Dreyfus was not revealed. Last autumn the languishing interest in the affair received a great stimulus from the public avowal of M. Scheurer-Kestner, a vice-president of the Senate and a man of the highest reputation, that he had become aware of facts that were conclusive of the innocence of Dreyfus. On November 16 the brother of Dreyfus formally accused one Esterhazy, an inactive officer, as the true culprit in the affair. Though documents were made public which on their face seriously compromised Esterhazy, he was on January 11 acquitted by a court-martial whose proceedings, as before, were secret. Two days later M. Zola, the well-known novelist, addressed to President Faure a long letter, violently assailing the military authorities and presenting the views of those who believed Dreyfus innocent. The essence of Zola's charge was

that Dreyfus had been irregularly convicted, and that in order to cover up this fact and prevent a revision of the trial the chief military authorities had deliberately and against the evidence acquitted Esterhazy. The minister of war and a number of officers were accused by name of gross violations of justice. Zola's letter was followed by a period of anti-Semitic demonstrations in many French cities, while in Algiers rioting on January 23-24 resulted in the loss of several lives. In the Chamber of Deputies Premier Méline, in response to interpellations, announced that Dreyfus was undoubtedly guilty, that his case would under no circumstances be reopened, that the agitation about it would be vigorously repressed and that Zola would be prosecuted in the courts for defamation of the army. The Chamber sustained the ministry, January 24, by a vote of 376 to 133. The trial of M. Zola took place February 7-23, and was attended by much popular excitement both within and without the court room. Despite the positive ruling of the court that the Dreyfus affair must not be brought into the trial, and the free recourse to the plea of professional secrecy on the part of officers called to testify, it was pretty clearly brought out that the guilt of Dreyfus had been established by a secret document, communicated to the court-martial, but not to either the accused or his counsel. Zola, however, was convicted on the charge against him and was sentenced to a year in prison. On the following day the Chamber sustained the course of the government by 416 to 41. The prime minister took the ground that the whole episode was due to the emotional excitement of a few persons who desired a revision of the Dreyfus trial, and he insisted that the army officers were quite innocent of the charges that had been made against them. The sequel to the trial was a decision by the Court of Cassation, April 2, declaring the whole procedure null and void, on the ground that the formal complaint should have been made, not by the minister of war, but by the members of the court-martial whom Zola libelled by name. It was at once announced that the officers of the court-martial would institute a new prosecution against Zola, on the basis of his charge that Esterhazy had been acquitted "by order." — The most striking **legislation** of the period was an act, adopted November 12, abolishing the secret examination of persons accused of crime, and assuring the assistance of counsel at the first hearing. Owing to the high price of grain the government, May 3, suspended the duties on wheat till July 1. — The general elections for the Chamber of Deputies took place May 8. Slight Republican gains were reported, but the full results were left dependent upon the second voting, fixed for the 22d.

GERMANY. — The most characteristic feature of German politics has been the development of an aggressive naval and commercial attitude in the Far East. The seizure of Kiao-Chau (see below, p. 385) was the first definite manifestation of this attitude, and the dispatch of a squadron under Prince Henry, the emperor's brother, to the East was made the occasion of an elaborate demonstration of the new policy. At a banquet

at Kiel, December 15, the day before the ships sailed, the emperor in a farewell address to Prince Henry, dwelt at length on the commercial expansion of Germany, and on her mission in the protection of her merchants and her missionaries. Prince Henry was exhorted, in case of affront or prejudice to German rights, to "strike out with your mailed fist, and, God willing, weave 'round your young brow the laurel wreath"; to which the prince replied that he was only animated by one desire — "to proclaim and preach abroad to all who will hear, as well as to those who will not hear, the gospel of your majesty's consecrated person." — **In the Reichstag**, which assembled November 30, the principal work of the period was the enactment of a law for the increase of the navy. This measure was made the most prominent feature of the government's program, as announced in the imperial speech at the opening of the session; and after long discussion and some modification in committee it passed finally March 28. Provision is made in the act for a gradual increase of the number of vessels up to a fixed maximum, to be reached in six years; and in meeting the expenses of the increase, there is to be no increase of taxation on beer, brandy, tobacco or sugar. Another act bearing on the Oriental development was that establishing subsidized steamer lines to Eastern Asia. Next in importance to the navy bill, in the government's program, was a bill for the long-promised reform in military judicial procedure. The project that came from the Bundesrath provided in a carefully qualified way for the application to the military courts of certain elements of ordinary judicial procedure. Publicity and the right of counsel were recognized, and civilian judges and lawyers were permitted to take part in the proceedings. The committee of the Reichstag demanded still more liberal provisions, which the government opposed, as tending to destroy discipline. Ultimately a compromise measure was adopted by the house May 4. The finances of the empire, as set forth in the treasury's statement of December 10, were very prosperous. A surplus of 20,000,000 marks was shown for 1897. — **The Prussian Landtag** assembled January 11, and began work on a program which included a variety of projects — chiefly of local interest. A bill which was passed in March increased from one to two hundred million marks the fund for settling German proprietors in the Polish districts of Posen and West Prussia. During the past ten years over 2000 Germans have been settled in these regions; but the government stated that the Poles were still gaining in numbers and influence, and that the tendency must be counteracted.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY. — Cisleithan politics, during the first months of the period under review, were of a very tumultuous character. The net result was the **success of the German opposition to Badeni**. The policy of obstruction pursued by the Germans in the Reichsrath culminated at the end of November in the use of force by the government. On November 24 Dr. Abrahamovitch, who had been chosen president of the assembly, refused the floor to Schönerer, a leading obstructionist, whereupon the

German and his friends took possession of the tribune and defended it from the attack of the officers of the body and Czechish members who sought to dislodge them. In the fight that ensued several members were badly hurt, and the session was summarily terminated. On the following day, amid German demonstrations so noisy as to render oral proceedings inaudible, the majority and the president, by a previously arranged code of signals, went through the forms of adopting rules of order authorizing the president to exclude disorderly members from the house. At the next session the first proceeding was a rush of enraged Germans upon the president, who was saved from violence only by the entrance of a strong force of police; Schönerer, Wolff and eleven other obstructionists were then forcibly removed from the house. Similar scenes characterized the next meeting of the Reichsrath. Meanwhile these proceedings had stimulated a series of popular demonstrations in Vienna and other predominantly German cities, and considerable use of the troops had to be made to preserve order. The threatening situation was relieved on the 28th by the announcement that Badeni had resigned and that Baron Gautsch von Frankenthurn would become prime minister. The Reichsrath meanwhile was prorogued. The success and exultation of the Germans were quickly followed by riotous demonstrations on the part of the Czechs in Prague and many other Bohemian towns. On the last days of November and on December 1 a widespread and apparently systematic looting of German shops and residences was carried on in Prague. On the 2d the minor state of siege was applied to the city, and with a free use of the troops and of summary courts order was restored. The state of siege was revoked January 10, when the Landtag met. The attitude of the Czech majority in this body resulted in the withdrawal of the Germans from participation in its business.—Premier Gautsch, on taking office at Vienna, at once assumed a conciliatory attitude toward the Germans and directed his energies to carrying through the necessary business of administration, while preparing the way for a permanent new ministry. In January a modification of the language-ordinances was promised, and in March it was put into operation. The new rules classify localities as German, Czech or mixed, and prescribe rules for the official language which vary accordingly. On March 5 a new ministry headed by Count Thun-Hohenstein assumed control. Its members included representatives of both Germans and Czechs, as well as of Poles, and its policy accordingly denoted an abandonment of that of Badeni, in which the Germans were to be ignored. When, on March 21, the Reichsrath reassembled, it was declared by the president that the rules of order which caused the disturbances in November had expired. An attempt by the irreconcilable German obstructionists to insist on some action stamping the rules as unconstitutional found no general support, and normal parliamentary procedure prevailed throughout the session.—At the end of December the compromise uniting **Austria and Hungary** expired, without final legislative action by either country for

its renewal. Obstruction by the Germans at Vienna and by the extreme Independence (Kossuth) Party at Budapest had prevented the adoption of the necessary bills. Nor indeed had any agreement been reached by the joint commission on the question of the respective quotas of the common finances. The situation was met by administrative action of the two governments through which the provisions of the expired agreement were kept in operation pending action by the respective Parliaments. In the second week of January the Hungarian Parliament succeeded in passing through its final stages a bill extending the old arrangements till the end of 1898 and indemnifying the administration for its illegal procedure. The act provided that if by May 1 an agreement had not been definitely reached and enacted into law by Austria the government should take steps looking to the establishment of a separate customs, currency and financial system for Hungary. No legislative action has yet been secured in Vienna, for the reason that the Germans insist on a prior settlement by law of the language question. — Throughout the period under review there have been widespread **agrarian disturbances** in Hungary. Especially in regions where *latifundia* predominate both laborers and small landholders, inspired by socialistic agitators, have put forth demands looking to a division of estates. A great meeting of agricultural laborers at Budapest, during the Christmas holidays, adopted resolutions calling for an eight-hour day and a variety of other regulations familiar to industrial trade unions, together with certain political reforms, such as universal suffrage, secret ballot, free education and the abolition of the army. It was in view of the prevalent agitation that an act was adopted and promulgated, March 1, modifying considerably the existing law as to agricultural labor.

RUSSIA. — The decree which concluded the transfer of Russia's monetary system from a silver to a gold standard was issued at the end of November. Provision was made for the striking of gold coins, and the paper notes of the currency were made redeemable in gold. — Another great strike of factory operatives, this time in the government of Vladimir, was reported in February. Some 10,000 men quit work. The cause of the difficulty was the failure of the government's new factory regulations to secure to the men the customary number of church holidays.

ITALY. — A cabinet crisis was precipitated shortly after the opening of Parliament, November 30. By a reorganization of the ministry so as to make room for Zanardelli and his friends, Premier di Rudini retained his position. **Questions of finance** constituted the topics of chief interest in the Chamber. Finance-minister Luzzatti's budget statement at the opening of the session showed a surplus and was very optimistic in its tone. But it became manifest during the winter that the burden of taxation upon the masses was near the breaking point. In addition to disturbances of a chronic nature in Sicily **bread riots** occurred in various places on the mainland from February on, and the situation appeared so threatening that part

of the army reserves were called out. The high price of flour was the special cause of the trouble. Parliament passed an act, February 10, reducing temporarily the customs duty on grain, though without a modification of the *octrois* little relief could be effected by the law. At the end of April riotous proceedings began to occur in the large towns of middle and northern Italy. Early in May Florence was affected and all Tuscany was put under martial law. A climax to the disturbances was reached on May 7-8 when a general uprising of the lower classes at Milan, organized apparently by socialists, led to desperate barricade-fighting in the streets. Large bodies of troops were in action and great loss of life was reported before the rioters were suppressed. — The long-standing charges of corruption against Signor Crispi reached a conclusion in March. Under a decision of the Court of Cassation last November, the sole jurisdiction over the matter was ascribed to the Parliament, acting through impeachment. Thereupon a committee of the Chamber was appointed to investigate. Its report, submitted in March, declared that there was no ground for impeachment, but that Crispi's conduct was politically censurable. This report was adopted March 23, whereupon Crispi resigned and appealed to his constituents for vindication. The charge was, essentially, that he when minister received extensive favors from certain banks, in return for which he used his power to protect them from the consequences of illegal conduct on their part. In April Crispi was reelected at Palermo by 1175 to 295.

SPAIN AND CUBA. — Spanish politics have centered exclusively in the Cuban situation. The application of **Sagasta's policy in Cuba** was carried out by successive decrees of Governor-General Blanco during November and December. On November 14 permission was given to the *reconcentrados* not only to labor within the zones of cultivation previously established, but also to return, under certain restrictions, to their farms and plantations wherever situated. All the Americans still in prison for filibustering were released and the embargo on exportation of tobacco was raised, so far as that owned by Americans was concerned. On the 27th of November the royal decrees establishing autonomy for Cuba and Porto Rico were published at Madrid. The new system included the following features in organization: A governor-general appointed by the crown; a cabinet of five secretaries appointed and removed by the governor-general; a bicameral legislature, of which one house was to be chosen by popular election and the other to be half elective for five years and half appointed for life; and a system of provincial and municipal assemblies for local government. As to powers, the most striking feature was the elaborate provisions by which the control of the home government over the colony was safeguarded. No bill which in the opinion of the governor-general affected the national interests was to be debated till it had been referred to Madrid; all the guaranties of the constitution could be suspended by him in emergency; the power of the legislature over the customs tariff was greatly qualified in

favor of Spanish interests ; and the ultimate decision of any question between governor-general and the Cuban Parliament was to be decided by the supreme court in Spain. On January 1 the new system was inaugurated by the installation of a cabinet headed by Señor José Galvez. The members were all from the Autonomist and Reformist parties, and with one exception were native Cubans. The Conservative or Union Constitutional Party in Cuba bitterly denounced the scheme of autonomy, adopted resolutions approving Weyler's policy and resolved to refrain from participation in politics while the new system lasted. On January 12-18 Havana was the scene of riotous demonstrations by the opponents of autonomy, including many of the Spanish volunteers. The regular army remained faithful, however, and the riots were suppressed without serious damage. — The **attitude of the insurgents** toward autonomy was promptly announced by their leaders in November to be that of absolute rejection. They reiterated their resolution to have nothing less than independence. Efforts were made by the Blanco administration in the autumn to enter into negotiations with insurgent military chiefs for their submission to the autonomous *régime*. Generals Gomez and Garcia in November ordered that any Spanish envoy attempting to propose to a Cuban officer acceptance of autonomy should be treated as a spy. Under this order a prominent Spanish officer, Colonel Ruiz, was summarily executed by the Cubans near Havana. No military movements of significance were undertaken by the insurgents during the winter ; and the few demonstrations made by the Spaniards, being met by the usual guerrilla methods of the rebels, were fruitless. Early in May the Spanish garrisons in the eastern provinces of Cuba were concentrated in four of the largest towns, and the many posts that were abandoned were at once occupied by the insurgents. — With the development of the tension with the United States (*supra*, p. 366) all governmental activity both in Spain and in Cuba was directed to **preparations for war**. Elections for the Cortes were held March 27, and resulted in the customary ministerial majority — 300 Liberals and about 100 opposition members being returned. On April 14, in view of President McKinley's message, the Cortes was convoked for the 20th and a national subscription was decreed for the increase of the fleet. The Carlist pretender just before this issued a manifesto threatening revolution if the government at Madrid did not resist the pretensions of the United States, while the Republican agitators in a number of the large cities instituted demonstrations against the American consulates. When the Cortes assembled the speech of the Queen Regent represented the Cuban complication as due to a "section of the people of the United States," animated by the purpose of overthrowing Spanish sovereignty in the island, and declared that, if the American government yielded to the influence of this section, Spain would sever relations to protect her national dignity. It was declared to be the Regent's resolution to defend her son's throne till he was old enough to defend it himself, and to rely on the people to maintain the honor and terri-

tory of the nation. In May, however, the general conditions in Spain became very critical. After the disaster at Manila (see above, p. 369) Republican and Carlist demonstrations against the government led to the proclamation of martial law in Madrid and other cities, and many country districts were disturbed by popular tumults. The latter were due in some measure to the dearness of bread; and accordingly a law was hurried through the Cortes prohibiting the exportation of wheat, flour, potatoes and other food, and import duties on wheat were reduced. Meanwhile the autonomist cabinet of Cuba sent offers of unconditional assistance to the home government. General Blanco proclaimed the armistice which had been ordered to conciliate the United States, but received no indication that the insurgents accepted it. When war had definitely begun, the armistice was revoked, martial law was declared, and the whole energy of the authorities was devoted to measures of defense against the United States. The autonomous parliament met at Havana May 4.

MINOR EUROPEAN STATES.—The commission on the union of **Norway and Sweden** (see this RECORD for June, 1896, p. 393) concluded in January that no agreement on any plan was possible. In March the reports of the Swedish and Norwegian delegates, laid before their respective Parliaments, revealed that the Swedes had insisted on a single foreign department and consular system, while the Norwegians had clung to the demand for an independent consular system for Norway. The elections for the Norwegian Storting finally resulted in November in the return of 79 Radicals and 35 others. In consequence a Radical ministry headed by Steen displaced the Hagerup cabinet in February.—A referendum in **Switzerland**, February 20, on the act for state purchase of the principal railroad lines resulted in approval of the law by 384,146 to 177,130. The great interest in the subject was indicated by the fact that the total number of qualified voters is only 670,000, and that so large a proportion actually voting had never been known on a referendum.—In **the Balkan States**, Bulgaria was disturbed from February to April by commotion along the Macedonian frontier, incidental to the long-standing revolutionary agitation in Turkey. The efforts of the Turks to disarm the people who were sympathizers of the movement for Macedonian independence were said to have been accompanied by horrible barbarities, and the Bulgarian government complained earnestly of this at Constantinople. Servia has continued under the *ukase-régime* of her young king, who signalized the opening of the year by postponing the proposed meeting of the Skupshtina, decreeing the budget and placing his father, ex-King Milan, at the head of the active army. This much-hated prince is looked upon by many Servians as the responsible spirit of the existing *régime*, and many indications point to an approaching uprising against him.

THE ORIENT.—The demonstration of Chinese feebleness which was presented by the recent war with Japan, has had its normal results in what appear to be the first steps toward **the partition of China** among the great

powers of Europe. The process was definitely inaugurated by Germany. On November 14, under guise of securing satisfaction for the murder of two missionaries, a German naval force occupied the harbor and city of Kiao-Chau, in the province of Shantung, on the west shore of the Yellow Sea. After a period of negotiation, during which, in the middle of December, Prince Henry of Prussia was dispatched with a strong reinforcement to the German fleet in Chinese waters, it was announced on January 5 that a lease of the seized port had been secured by Germany. The lease was for ninety-nine years, and the region affected included the bay, with the city and a surrounding tract of from thirty to fifty square kilometres, while important concessions as to the commercial and industrial exploitation of the adjacent lands were also assured to Germany. Baron von Bülow, the foreign minister, declared in the Reichstag, February 9, that the seizure of the port was a deliberate act of policy, looking to the possession of a naval base for the support of Germany's commercial interests in the Far East, and aimed to secure her a position analogous to that of Great Britain at Hong Kong, France at Tonquin and Russia in Manchuria. In the middle of December it was announced that a Russian fleet had taken possession of Port Arthur, at the mouth of the Gulf of Pechili. The news caused strong manifestations of hostility in Great Britain and was followed by a period of strenuous diplomacy centering at Peking. The upshot was a convention, signed March 27, by which Port Arthur and the port of Talien-wan, with adjacent territory, were "ceded to Russia in usufruct by China" for twenty-five years, with privilege of extension of the time. Russian forces at once occupied the ports. Great Britain had opposed this action by Russia on the same grounds on which Russia had in 1895 objected to the occupation of Port Arthur by Japan, namely, that it would menace the existence of China. When, however, the Russo-Chinese convention was concluded, an offset was at once secured through an agreement by which the port of Weihai-wei, on the opposite side of the entrance to the Gulf of Pechili, should be ceded to Great Britain on the same terms as those on which Russia obtained Port Arthur. Additional concessions to British demands were also announced as follows : The whole region of the Yang-tse-Kiang not to be ceded or leased to any foreign power ; the director of the Chinese customs administration to be, as heretofore, an Englishman ; access to inland waters to be allowed to ships of all nations ; and three new treaty ports to be opened, namely, Fu-ning, Yo-chau and Chin-wang. From Germany and Russia Great Britain secured assurances that Kiao-chau and Talien-wan (though not Port Arthur) should be open ports. Immediately after the announcement of the British treaties the demands of France for concessions to her interests on the southern frontier became prominent ; and it was announced in the middle of April that she had secured the lease of a bay on the southern coast, a railway concession to connect with her existing system, and a pledge from China not to alienate any of the provinces bordering on Tonquin or to cede Hainan to any other power. — Pending these

events the government of Japan seems to have preserved a discontented silence. Her forces were still in actual occupation of Wei-hai-wei, which was only to be relinquished upon the payment of an installment of the war indemnity by China in May. A loan to effect this payment was floated, chiefly through the good offices of Great Britain, in March, and the payment was duly made May 7. British occupation of Wei-hai-wei will follow Japanese evacuation. On April 25 an agreement was concluded between Japan and Russia by which each undertook to refrain from direct interference in the internal affairs of Corea and to respond to requests from Corea for assistance or advice only after mutual agreement, while Russia undertook not to impede the development of commercial and industrial relations between Japan and Corea. The internal politics of Japan presented the usual ministerial instability. At the meeting of the Diet in December the inability of the Matsukata cabinet to command a majority became at once evident, and the Diet was dissolved. Shortly afterward the cabinet also resigned, and was succeeded by one headed by the Marquis Ito.

AFRICA. — **The advance on Khartoum** has progressed with unbroken success. In January three battalions of British troops from the occupying force at Cairo and Alexandria were sent to reinforce the expedition. Prior to this a strong Anglo-Egyptian detachment had taken over Kassala from the Italians and opened communication with the troops on the Nile. In March a large Dervish force took position on the Atbara River, an affluent of the Nile, and constructed elaborate entrenchments. General Kitchener, of the Nile column, moved out from Berber with some 13,000 men and on April 8 stormed the Dervish position, routed the enemy and captured the commander, Mahmoud. By this victory the way was cleared to well within a hundred miles of Khartoum. — In **Uganda**, a thousand miles to the southward, an expedition from the British East Africa region was prevented from reaching the Nile by the mutiny of the Soudanese troops who constituted the bulk of the garrison of the country. The mutineers were a part of Emin Pasha's old Egyptian army, who, after the triumph of the Mahdi, had gone southward and entered the British service. At latest accounts the mutineers had not been subdued, but were seriously threatening the security of British interests in Uganda and the neighboring countries. — The British treaty with Abyssinia (see last RECORD) was made public in February. It embodies an engagement by Menelik to prevent the passage of arms and ammunition to the Mahdists, whom he declares to be enemies of his empire. — Negotiations between Great Britain and France for the adjustment of territorial relations in **the Niger region**, which began in October, have been accompanied throughout the period under review by reports of much activity by French expeditions from Senegal and Dahomey looking to the occupation of points within the sphere claimed by the British. It has also been reported that an expedition from the French Congo region has reached the Nile at Fasoda, some 350 miles south of Khartoum. — In **the Transvaal** the presidential election in February resulted in the reëlection of President Kruger

by a large majority. The long-standing dispute due to the claim by the supreme court of a right to declare acts of the Volksraad unconstitutional (see RECORD for June, 1897, p. 378) resulted in February in the summary removal of the chief-justice by President Kruger and the appointment of a more subservient jurist in his place. — At the election of directors of the British South Africa Company at London in April, Cecil Rhodes and Alfred Beit, who were so largely involved in the Jameson raid on the Transvaal, were chosen, with the consent of the British government.

LATIN AMERICA. — **Brazilian** politics have exhibited features that tend to discredit the republican *régime*. The bitterness of internecine strife among the republican factions has proved a source of continual disturbance. On November 5 an attempt was made to assassinate President Prudente de Moraes, and in defending him the minister of war was killed. Martial law was declared by Congress; and an investigating committee reported in January that the affair was the outcome of a conspiracy in which were implicated the vice-president, several members of Congress and a number of army and navy officers. The general elections on March 1 resulted in the choice of Gen. Campos Salles, of Sao Paulo, as president. — In **Venezuela** the formal resumption of diplomatic relations with Great Britain took place through the reception of the British minister, December 11. In February General Ignacio Andrade regularly succeeded Crespo as president. Two months later Crespo was killed while conducting a campaign against a body of insurgents who had been opposing the government through the winter. — In **Central America** the arbitrary career of Barrios, President of Guatemala, was cut short early in February by assassination. The executive power was assumed by Señor Cabreda, a member of Barrios's cabinet. A good deal of friction between Nicaragua and Costa Rica seemed likely in the spring to result in hostilities.

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